



IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Previously Cancelled)

Claims 11-18 (Previously Withdrawn)

Claims 19-28 (Cancelled)

29. (New) A method for testing for the presence of leaks in excess of a particular size in an evaporative system of a motor vehicle, said method comprising the steps of:

connecting a gas flow meter having a moving indicator ball in a gas supply line with a source of gas under pressure to a leak tolerance standard having a maximum acceptable leak of predetermined size;

observing the ball position of the gas flow meter with the gas supply line and the gas flow meter connected to the leak tolerance standard to establish a limit that is indicative of the predetermined size of the maximum acceptable leak;

disconnecting the gas supply line and said gas flow meter from the leak tolerance standard and reconnecting the gas supply line and said gas flow meter to an evaporative system under test having a leak of unknown size;

observing the ball position of the gas flow meter with the gas supply line and the gas flow meter connected to the evaporative system under test to provide an indication of the size of the leak thereof; and

comparing the limit established by observing the ball position of the gas flow meter when the gas supply line was connected to the leak tolerance standard with the ball position of the gas flow meter when the gas supply line is connected to the evaporative system under test in order to determine whether the leak in the evaporative system under test is unacceptable and in need of repair.

30. (New) The method for testing for leaks recited in Claim 29, wherein the evaporative system under test to which said gas flow meter and the gas supply line are reconnected is the fuel vapor recovery system of the motor vehicle.

31. (New) The method for testing for leaks recited in Claim 29, wherein the source of gas under pressure to which said gas flow meter is connected is a source of non-flammable gas.

32. (New) The method for testing for leaks recited in Claim 31, wherein said non-flammable gas is nitrogen.

33. (New) The method for testing for leaks recited in Claim 31, wherein said non-flammable gas is carbon dioxide.

34. (New) The method for testing for leaks recited in Claim 29, including the additional step of connecting a unidirectional check valve in the gas supply line between said gas flow meter and the evaporative system under test to prevent the flow of gas in a direction away from the system under test and towards said gas flow meter.

35. (New) A method for testing for the presence of leaks in excess of a particular size in an evaporative system of a motor vehicle, said method comprising the steps of:

connecting a gas flow meter in a gas supply line with a source of gas under pressure to a leak tolerance standard having a maximum acceptable leak of predetermined size;

observing the gas flow indicated by the gas flow meter with the gas supply line and the gas flow meter connected to the leak tolerance standard to establish a limit corresponding to the predetermined size of the maximum acceptable leak;

disconnecting the gas supply line and said gas flow meter from the leak tolerance standard and reconnecting the gas supply line and said gas flow meter to an evaporative system under test having a leak of unknown size;

observing the gas flow indicated by the gas flow meter with the gas supply line and the gas flow meter connected to the evaporative system under test to provide an indication of the size of the leak thereof; and

visually comparing the limit established by observing the gas flow indicated by the gas flow meter when the gas supply line was connected to the leak tolerance standard with the gas flow indicated by the gas flow meter when the gas supply line is connected to the evaporative system under test in order to determine whether the leak in the evaporative system under test is unacceptable and in need of repair.